

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 00036 041418Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 NEA-10
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P R 041314Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8464
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION NATO
USNMR/SHAPE
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS MADRID 0036

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SP
SUBJECT: US MILITARY FACILITIES IN SPAIN--SPANISH PRESS SPECULATION

1. REFLECTING THE HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST IN MADRID IN ANY SPECULATION AS TO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S POSTURE TOWARD EUROPE IN GENERAL AND TOWARD SPAIN IN PARTICULAR, MADRID'S DAILY "ARRIBA" GIVES FRONT PAGE HEADLINE ATTENTION JAN 4, UNDER THE TITLE "CARTER WILL CHANGE DEFENSE STRATEGY--US BASES SUBJECT TO REVISION," TO AN ANALYSIS BY ITS NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT (ANTONIO PARRA) OF A RECENT COLUMN BY JOHN FINNEY IN THE NEW YORK TIMEW (NOT YET SEEN HERE).

2. THE "ARRIBA" ARTICLE TAKES THE LINE THAT PERSONS CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT-ELECT ARE SUGGESTING THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW US POSTURE TOWARD OVERSEAS BASES, INCLUDING FACILITIES IN SPAIN. TO SOME EXTENT, THIS IS INTERPRETED BY THE AUTHOR AS AN "ARTFUL" EFFORT TO ESTABLISH DISTANCE BETWEEN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND THE "KISSINGER PHILOSOPHY" WHICH PRODUCED A SERIES OF BASE NEGOTIATIONS. THE AUTHOR ALSO UNDERLINES THE POINTS APPARENTLY MADE BY FINNEY THAT HIS SOURCES FIND THE "US BASES" (SIC)
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IN
SPAIN (A) NO LONGER SO OPERATIONAL AS ONE MIGHT BELIEVE--SPAIN IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED BY THEM A POTENTIAL STRATEGIC REDOUBT; AND (B) COSTLY.

3. INTERESTINGLY, THE AUTHOR MOVES QUICKLY TO THE DEFENSIVE, JUSTIFYING THE VALUE TO THE UNITED STATES OF THE BASES IN TERMS

OF CONSIDERABLE US ARMS SALES AND A FAVORABLE BALANCE OF RISKS AND OBLIGATIONS, BALANCING BY WAY OF EXAMPLE THE POTENTIAL VALUE TO THE UNITED STATES IN A MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AGAINST THE SIGNIFICANT RISK FOR SPAIN'S INTERESTS. HE CONCLUDES THAT, IN ANY EVENT, THE FUTURE OF THE BASES IS ASSURED DURING THE LIFE OF THE TREATY, ALTHOUGH NOT BEYOND THAT POINT.

4. COMMENT: FURTHER SPECULATION IN THE SPANISH PRESS IS TO BE EXPECTED.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ASKED US TO PROVIDE THE FULL TEXT OF THE FINNEY COLUMN. STABLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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